



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/724,608

12/02/2003

Hiroyuki Kometani

380-45

3708

23117

7590

08/22/2007

NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC

901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR

ARLINGTON, VA 22203

EXAMINER

SERGEANT, RABON A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1711

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/22/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/724,608	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KOMETANI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Rabon Sergeant	<b>Art Unit</b> 1711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20,23,24 and 26-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20,23,24 and 26-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/973,747.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

Art Unit: 1711

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 20, 23, 24, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagio et al. ('104) in view of Laas et al. ('044) and Nakamura et al. ('034) and Hannah et al. ('659).

Hagio et al. disclose the use of salts of cycloamidines, such as applicants' claimed DBU, DBN, and DBD, as catalysts for polyurethane compositions. Patentees further disclose that the aforementioned salts can be produced from the reaction of the aforementioned cycloamidines with unsaturated acids, such as crotonic acid, acrylic acid, and ricinoleic acid. See abstract; column 2; and column 3, lines 14-19.

3. In addition to the teachings of Hagio et al, Nakamura et al. disclose at column 5, lines 1-40, especially lines 1-4, that salts of DBU were known catalysts for polyurethanes, and Laas et al. disclose at column 4, line 65 through column 5, line 13 that bicyclic amidines corresponding

Art Unit: 1711

to those of applicants were known catalysts for polyurethane yielding coating compositions. Though the aforementioned references fail to specifically recite the use of the catalysts within two-component isocyanate based systems, the use of salts of DBU and DBN within such systems was known at the time of invention, as evidenced by Hannah et al. at column 4, line 65 through column 5, line 27. Furthermore, since the salt forms in a one to one ratio of catalyst to acid, applicants' claimed ratio limitations are considered to be satisfied.

4. Therefore, in view of the aforementioned teachings, the position is taken that it would have been obvious to utilize salts derived from unsaturated acids and cyclic amidines, such as DBU, DBN, and DBD, in their art recognized capacity as catalysts for polyurethane and isocyanate based polymeric systems, and that it further would have been obvious to utilize the salts in virtually any type of polyurethane yielding system, including two-component systems. Lastly, the position is taken that the use of virtually any unsaturated acid to block the catalyst would have been obvious in view of the teachings of the references.

5. Applicants' response of May 29, 2007 has been considered; however, applicants' response is insufficient to overcome the prior art rejection. Firstly, applicants' amendment serves only to place previous claims 21 and 25 in independent form; therefore, new claims 27 and 28 fail to set forth any claim limitation that has not been previously considered. Furthermore, applicants' argument with respect to Hannah et al. is not well taken. Despite applicants' position, it is not seen that applicants' claims exclude blocked isocyanates or blocked isocyanate prepolymers. Therefore, the position is maintained that the instant claims fail to overcome the prior art rejection for essentially the same reasons as set forth previously. For applicants' convenience, the previously set forth reasons are set forth again herein. As

Art Unit: 1711

aforementioned, applicants' responses and the 37 CFR 1.132 declaration of June 7, 2006 have been considered; however, the response and declaration are insufficient to overcome the prior art rejection. The examiner has considered applicants' examples; however, it is not seen that applicants have provided showings commensurate in scope with the claims to rebut the *prima facie* case of obviousness. Despite applicants' arguments, applicants' claims and examples are not commensurate in scope in terms of catalyst species, acid species, quantities of reactants, quantities of catalyst, and ratios of catalyst to acid. It has been held that evidence of unexpected results, must pertain to the full extent of the subject matter being claimed. *In re Ackermann*, 170 USPQ 340; *In re Chupp*, 2 USPQ2d 1437; *In re Murch*, 175 USPQ 89. Accordingly, to overcome a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the claims must be commensurate in scope with any showing of unexpected results. *In re Greenfield*, 197 USPQ 227. Furthermore, it has been held that a limited showing of criticality is insufficient to support a broadly claimed range. *In re Lemin*, 161 USPQ 288; *In re Kulling*, 14 USPQ2d 1056. Furthermore, to the extent that the examples and claims are commensurate in scope, it remains unclear that applicants' results are in fact unexpected. In the instant case, the position is maintained that the evidence of obviousness outweighs the evidence of non-obviousness. One of ordinary skill in the art, in the course of routine experimentation, would have been able to select suitable acid blocked catalysts yielding optimum results, in terms of such properties as pot-life and viscosity increase. This issue has been set forth previously; however, applicants have not addressed the issue.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 1711

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to R. Sergent at telephone number (571) 272-1079.

R. Sergent  
August 20, 2007

  
RABON SERGENT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER